

RICHMOND, VA., SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1916.

BECK TELLS OF WORK
ALONG SHOCKOE CREEKIf Funds Are Provided Entire Under-
taking Can Be Completed
by 1920.

CITY HAS SPENT \$475,234.03

Contracts Recently Awarded Cover
About One Mile of Bacon Quarter
Branch and Total \$287,747.18.
Main Section Yet to Be Walled In.

BY HENRY P. BECK.

Member of Administrative Board.
(Prepared for "Richmond," the necessary
publication of the Richmond Chamber of
Commerce.)

Ever since the day William Byrd founded the city of Richmond, in 1782, Shockoe Creek has been a physical factor that had to be reckoned with in city affairs: first, in the early days of the city, as a stream separating the lower part of the town from the upper section as the community commenced to grow and spread from the lower part of the town adjacent to the river, westwardly, and across Shockoe Creek. At first it became necessary to bridge this stream so that countrymen and others wishing to visit the new town could cross the creek in times of high water, but as the city continued to grow, what was at first a country brook, became the drain, and finally the main sewer of the city.

As the population increased, it became necessary very early in the nineteenth century to carry the streets across Shockoe Creek by more substantial structures than at first prevailed, and the remains of some of this work may still be seen spanning the present channel. As the city continued to grow westwardly, the tributary of Shockoe Creek, known as Bacon Quarter Branch, became also a main drain and sewer for the new west end section. Early in the seventeenth century, the city of Richmond, by the walling-in of Shockoe Creek and Bacon Quarter Branch, in order to facilitate the use of these streams as sewers, became an important problem with the city. The city engineer, to make so that the late Colonel W. E. Cutshaw, formerly City Engineer, as early as 1873, caused to be made a complete survey of the Shockoe Creek and Bacon Quarter Branch, which must be built in order to fully accommodate this stream with its added burden of city sewage, as well as take care of storm water during heavy rains. Under his direction, the work of walling-in and building this channel was commenced and prosecuted as far as the means of the city would permit, and the appropriate appropriations for the improvement of these streams, prior to 1912, were very meager and spasmodic, yet under the able direction of City Engineer Cutshaw the work was carried in a number of the worst places, and the straightening of these streams was commenced.

FULL AND COMPLETE
SURVEYS HAVE BEEN MADE

During recent years, with an increased engineering force, which was made possible by the more complete surveys in order to determine the work that was necessary to be done, the work of improving Shockoe Creek has been proceeded with in a more systematic manner so that in the present time the creek may be said to be fully improved from the intersection of Seventh and Hospital Streets, where Bacon Quarter Branch forms a junction with Shockoe Creek to the headwaters of Bacon Quarter Branch above the Hermitage Road, after the present contracts which have just been let by the Administrative Board, shall have been completed, which will probably be some time in the fall of 1917. That portion of the Bacon Quarter Branch sewer for which contracts have just been let will be provided with a re-enforced concrete top or cover throughout its entire length, and as a good portion of the work already done has also a cover, only that portion of the creek from Lombardy Street to the Hermitage Road will be left without a cover, and this top will be provided as soon as funds are available for that purpose.

Up to date the sum of \$475,234.03 has been expended in this work of improvement, the amounts by years being as follows:

In 1852,	\$9,694.91;	1853,	\$20,123.22;
1854,	\$29,739.54;	1855,	\$4,155.55;
1856,	\$11,723.03;	1857,	\$9,999.94;
1858,	\$10,000.00;	1859,	\$5,894.99;
1860,	\$24,417.49;	1861,	\$10,509.08;
1862,	\$19,321.14;	1863,	\$5,638.73;
1864,	\$20,576.89;	1865,	\$11,260.75;
1866,	\$18,278.64;	1867,	\$15,155.27;
1868,	\$15,155.27;	1869,	\$15,155.27;
1870,	\$15,155.27;	1871,	\$15,155.27;
1872,	\$15,155.27;	1873,	\$15,155.27;
1874,	\$15,155.27;	1875,	\$15,155.27;
1876,	\$15,155.27;	1877,	\$15,155.27;
1878,	\$15,155.27;	1879,	\$15,155.27;
1880,	\$15,155.27;	1881,	\$15,155.27;
1882,	\$15,155.27;	1883,	\$15,155.27;
1884,	\$15,155.27;	1885,	\$15,155.27;
1886,	\$15,155.27;	1887,	\$15,155.27;
1888,	\$15,155.27;	1889,	\$15,155.27;
1890,	\$15,155.27;	1891,	\$15,155.27;
1892,	\$15,155.27;	1893,	\$15,155.27;
1894,	\$15,155.27;	1895,	\$15,155.27;
1896,	\$15,155.27;	1897,	\$15,155.27;
1898,	\$15,155.27;	1899,	\$15,155.27;
1900,	\$15,155.27;	1901,	\$15,155.27;
1902,	\$15,155.27;	1903,	\$15,155.27;
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1914,	\$15,155.27;	1915,	\$15,155.27;
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1918,	\$15,155.27;	1919,	\$15,155.27;
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1934,	\$15,155.27;	1935,	\$15,155.27;
1936,	\$15,155.27;	1937,	\$15,155.27;
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2110,	\$15,155.27;	2111,	\$15,155.27;
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2164,	\$15,155.27;	2165,	\$15,155.27;
2166,	\$15,155.27;	2167,	\$15,155.27;
2168,	\$15,155.27;	2169,	\$15,155.27;
2170,	\$15,155.27;	2171,	\$15,155.27;
2172,	\$15,155.27;	2173,	\$15,155.27;
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2176,	\$15,155.27;	2177,	\$15,155.27;
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2188,	\$15,155.27;	2189,	\$15,155.27;
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2206,	\$15,155.27;	2207,	\$15,155.27;
2208,	\$15,155.27;	2209,	\$15,155.27;
2210,	\$15,155.27;	2211,	\$15,155.27;
2212,	\$15,155.27;	2213,	\$15,155.27;
2214,	\$15,155.27;	2215,	\$15,155.27;
2216,	\$15,155.27;	2217,	\$15,155.27;
2218,	\$15,155.27;	2219,	\$15,155.27;
2220,	\$15,155.27;	2221,	\$15,155.27;
2222,	\$15,155.27;	2223,	\$15,155.27;
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2236,	\$15,155.27;	2237,	\$15,155.27;
2238,	\$15,155.27;	2239,	\$15,155.27;
2240,	\$15,155.27;	2241,	\$15,155.27;
2242,	\$15,155.27;	2243,	\$15,155.27;
2244,	\$15,155.27;	2245,	\$15,155.27;
2246,	\$15,155.27;	2247,	\$15,155.27;
2248,	\$15,155.27;	2249,	\$15,155.27;
2250,	\$15,155.27;	2251,	\$15,155.27;
2252,	\$15,155.27;	2253,	\$15,155.27;
2254,	\$15,155.27;	2255,	\$15,155.27;
2256,	\$15,155.27;	2257,	\$15,155.27;
2258,	\$15,155.27;	2259,	\$15,155.27;
2260,	\$15,155.27;	2261,	\$15,155.27;
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2288,	\$15,155.27;	2289,	\$15,155.27;
2290,	\$15,155.27;	2291,	\$15,155.27;
2292,	\$15,155.27;	2293,	